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EDU 599

Reflection Paper

I have been using a SmartBoard in my classroom for three years. I knew that I was not using many of the features that were available, but have not had time to investigate those features. In the past, I have used the SmartBoard more as a tool to present and record notes. One of the statements that Ms. Vander Wilt made during the class really hit home for me. She said that if we weren’t using the interactive capability of the SmartBoard, we might just as well just have a projector and a white board.

As a result of this class, I will definitely be using the interactive features of the board in my classroom. I have a very old board, it needs to be synchronized quite often and writing on it is difficult for most students. Because of that fact, students very seldom “come to the board” during class. With most of the activities presented in class, I think students will be able to use the board without the difficulties I have had in the past.

One of my hesitations of student use of the board is the same as student use of the white board, chalk board, etc. What are the students doing that aren’t at the board? Quite often they are not involved in the discussion or the activity until it is their turn to go to the board. We are a one-to-one laptop school and all students have a laptop during class. I can see that some of the activities can be sent to the students’ computers and they can run the activity on their own computer. Instead of using the SmartBoard they can use their computer screen and stylus.

In addition to all of the activities that I was exposed to in class, I really appreciated the quick review of the tools available in Smart Notebook. The magic pen is probably my favorite new tool. Even though it has always been there, I haven’t used it in the past. I know that I will use the spotlight feature during my future presentations. I think the best idea that I got from the class was the use of color - changing the background, using colored fonts, etc. The use of color adds so much to the presentation and activity. Even though I did not include a function machine in the activities that I uploaded, it is an activity that I will use. The idea of function, domain, and range can certainly be demonstrated and reinforced using that activity.

The class was very worthwhile. It was fun, entertaining and educational. I really appreciated Ms. Vander Wilt’s enthusiasm and method of presentation. Many thanks to both Ms. Vander Wilt and Dr. Von Eye for a great day!